

/148 cont./

578 embracing him. Besides this, the men tie some whole skins
411 of the tail of the ray on the calves of the leg and then throw
[123] the leg between the upper parts of the enemies' thighs. In
the missions as well as in Tori-paru I was able to acquire
these weapons. Not only by means of them, but also with
their nails pointed especially for this purpose, the women
[562] scratch the face and the body of the antagonist. While doing
it, they utter many sharp screams, while the men fight in
silence, except, if the ounce were the adversary, they would
try to irritate it by means of shouting.

562 The Bororo women do not fight only because of jealousy,
578 but also when their children do some harm to one another or
521 when they themselves get furious because of some gossip.
152 Quickly they become friends with one another, in order to
be able to tell scandalous stories about friends. By doing
this, they try to find out the secrets of the new friend,
gossiping about her afterwards in the same way as about the
/149/ others. The men likewise are masters at lying and
slandering. And as happens with all the gossipers of the
world, the Bororo too, man and woman, are supersensitive;
and easily become irritated when someone finds something
to say about them themselves.

586 Neither sex severely protects conjugal fidelity. In
178 this respect the director of the mission of Meruri told me:
593 "In the past they would separate when the marriage was not
going well; today, however, the marriages being Christian,
and thus indissoluble, the husband would thrash the woman."
As I found out, at times these beatings go as far as homicide.
It is said that even in the past too, although rarely, it would
happen that the man would kill the woman, and that, on the
other hand, it would also happen that the woman's relatives
liquidated him with some vegetal poison.

562 If the Salesian padres affirm that the position of the
114 woman in the past was worse than today, and that now in
797

Brazil.

each day during the weeks that we remained in their vicinity, [23]
 and stayed by us faithfully until dark; and though coming [52]
 and going continually, we had always a full house. If I
 opened a trunk, they were on the alert to peer into it, and to
 handle whatever struck their fancy. When we ate, every
 mouthful of food we took and our manner of eating; or if
 we wrote, or conversed, or photographed, or made our toilet,
 our every act was observed with the closest attention and com-
 mented upon in muttering tones by the horde of naked sav-
 ages that encircled us, of which the women and children
 formed the outer ring.

They sat or lounged upon our boxes, benches and tables, [517]
 or what served as a table, leaned against the stake walls of [123]
 our hut, sat cross-legged on dry ox-hides on the ground, or [516]
 upon flat stones or slabs of wood, or squatted around our
 pot of food as it boiled at the camp-fire, eyeing it hungrily,
 always leaving a patch of red grease on anything they sat
 upon or reclined against. A few dozed occasionally; some [296]
 smoked when they could get a bit of tobacco; others roasted [252]
 hunks of beef at our fire, or lazily picked off and ate the [262]
 kernels from a roasted ear of corn; several nibbled pieces [857]
 of the heart of a dwarf palm; while others, the boys, slowly
 devoured bits of fish that had been roasted black, peeling
 back the skin and scales as they ate; or amused themselves
 shooting with rude bows and arrows at a stump just outside
 our hut. The men gossiped a little among themselves in [521]
 guttural sounds, looking vacantly into space as expressionless [122]
 as a professional gambler, and never once glancing toward
 the one addressed; or else asked us a few questions in the
 limited language that we knew in common. They would [516]
 sit for hours at a time in every conceivable position and dis-
 tortion of the body, uttering scarcely a word.

They are very fond of tobacco, and resorted to various [123]
 tricks to obtain a small piece. Whenever they did any work [296]
 for us, or made a trade, they invariably demanded a piece of
 tobacco from my companion in part payment. Besides trad- [431]
 ing, they availed themselves of numerous expedients to obtain